

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-108. (Canceled)

109. (Currently amended) An isolated antigen-binding protein which is a GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof that inhibits the binding to a hepatic stem cell of a GCTM-5 antibody that is produced by a hybridoma having ECACC accession number 03101603.

110. (Previously presented) The antigen-binding protein according to claim 109 which is an antibody, portion or fragment thereof, ligand or complementary molecule to the hepatic stem cell GCTM-5 epitope.

111-116. (Canceled)

117. (Previously presented) The antigen-binding protein according to claim 109 wherein the hepatic stem cell is selected from the group consisting of: a hepatoblast; a hepatic stem cell; a hepatic progenitor cell; a pancreatic stem cell; a pancreatic progenitor cell; a hepatic cancer cell; and a pancreatic cancer cell.

118. (Currently amended) The antigen-binding protein according to claim ~~115~~ 109 wherein the hepatic stem cell is a cell of the biliary epithelium.

119. (Currently amended) The antigen-binding protein according to claim ~~115~~ 109 wherein the stem cell is proliferating.

120. (Currently amended) An isolated hybridoma that produces an antibody which is a GCTM-5 antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof which competes for binding with a GCTM-5 antibody, produced by a hybridoma having ECACC accession number 03101603, for binding to a hepatic stem cell.

121. (Previously presented) A hybridoma that produces a GCTM-5 antibody of ECACC accession number 03101603.

122.-169. (Canceled)

170. (Previously presented) A kit for detecting a cell marker, said kit comprising the antigen binding protein according to claim 109 which is capable of detecting a hepatic stem cell.

171. (Canceled)

172. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 170, wherein the antigen binding protein is capable of detecting the hepatic stem cell GCTM-5 epitope on a cell selected from the group consisting of: a hepatoblast; a hepatic stem cell; a hepatic progenitor cell; a pancreatic stem cell; a pancreatic progenitor cell; a biliary cell; a biliary epithelial cell; a hepatic cancer cell; and a pancreatic cancer cell.

173. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 170, wherein the antigen binding protein is capable of detecting the hepatic stem cell GCTM-5 epitope on a cell that is proliferating.

174. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 170, wherein the antigen binding protein is capable of detecting the hepatic stem cell GCTM-5 epitope in a biological sample including cell culture, tissue culture, conditioned medium, tissue sample, blood, serum, plasma and other bodily fluids and biopsy samples.

175-176. (Canceled)

177. (Previously presented) A kit for isolating a subpopulation of stem cells, said kit comprising the antigen binding protein according to claim 109 for detecting cells expressing a GCTM-5 epitope, and a means to separate the cells detected by the antigen binding protein.

178. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 177 for isolating a hepatic stem cell selected from the group consisting of: a hepatoblast; a hepatic stem cell; a hepatic progenitor cell; a pancreatic stem cell; and a pancreatic progenitor cell.

179. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 177 for isolating a hepatic stem cell that is proliferating.

180. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 177 for isolating a hepatic stem cell from a biological sample including cell culture, tissue culture, conditioned medium, tissue sample, blood, serum, plasma and other bodily fluids and biopsy samples.

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181-182. (Canceled)